

Message Text

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EUR:LBLAINGEN

S/S- MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197292

EXDIS, FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT:ACTIVITIES OF SISMII

REFERENCE: ATHENS 8066

1. YOU SHOULD AT APPROPRIATE AVAILABLE LEVEL OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONVEY ON MY BEHALF THE FOLLOWING VIEWS REGARDING CURRENT TENSION IN THE AEGEAN.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THAT THE TURKISH VESSEL SISMII IS CARRYING OUT RESEARCH IN A DIS-PUTED AREA OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. WE HAVE NOT TAKEN AND DO NOT NOW TAKE A POSITION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE ENGAGED IN SUCH RESEARCH. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, URGED ON BOTH PARTIES RESTRAINT IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR CONFLICTING CLAIMS ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF.

3. WE HAVE WELCOMED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCE THAT TUR-
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KISH RESEARCH DOES NOT ENVISAGE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE

DISPUTED SEABED, AND WE ALSO NOTE THE TURKISH POSITION THAT SUCH RESEARCH DOES NOT PREJUDICE THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF EITHER SIDE ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE. WE WOULD WELCOME CONFIRMATION THAT TURKEY'S POSITION IN THIS REGARD HAS NOT

CHANGED. IT IS MY GOVERNMENT'S STRONGEST HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO SETTLE ITS DISPUTE WITH GREECE THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, SUCH AS THROUGH NEGOTIATION OR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE THIRD PARTY PROCEDURES, SO THAT CONFRONTATIONS CAN BE AVOIDED AND THE RIGHTS OF BOTH SIDES PRESERVED.

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